

LGBTQIA+ Rainbow Commission

Meeting minutes March 22, 2018 6:30pm

Members present: Jac Dembro, Bill Gardiner, Mel Goldsipe, Brooks Harrelson, Lisa Krinsky, Helene Newberg, Anna Watson

Staff: Christine Bongiorno, Director of Health and Human Services

Liaisons: Dan Dunn, Board of Selectmen Liaison

Guests: Michael Ruderman

1. Christine Bongiorno, Director of Health and Human Services welcomed all members as well as guests to the first meeting of the Commission. Bongiorno reported that there has been great energy in organizing the group, many town staff and residents have voiced their support for the newly formed commission.
2. Christine Bongiorno reviewed town bylaw with members as well as town logistical information including open meeting law, state ethics law, records retention as it relates to email. Bongiorno will email all members copies of each law with the notice to be signed for each. Bongiorno reported that there is currently no funding for FY18 or funding planned for FY19 but events or trainings planned can be paid through partnerships. A strategic plan for the group will allow for a coordinated effort to understand upcoming plans for funding.

Anna Watson was elected chair and Mel Goldsipe elected vice-chair. The Chair and Vice Chair will determine agendas, ensure posting of agendas and minutes and will work with the various subcommittees to ensure progress. Meeting dates for next meetings: April 5th and May 17th both at 6:30pm. The group decided to set the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:30pm as the meeting time.

3. Strategic Planning: The group discussed organizing a strategic planning session for a Saturday in the spring. Christine Bongiorno will seek out some facilitators to run a one day retreat for the group.
4. Municipal Equality Index- Bongiorno reported that the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) conducts a survey each year of 506 communities across the nation to determine how they rate on LGBTQ equity and that Arlington has once again been chosen to be included in the 2018 scorecard. The following members will serve on the subcommittee to provide a response to the HRC once the draft scorecard is complete, Bill Gardiner, Mel Goldsipe, Christine Bongiorno.

5. Events, trainings and conferences: The group discussed Town Day and a Pride Event. Mel Goldsipe asked if the group would be interested in sponsoring a Trans 102 training, Mel will speak with a facilitator and obtain dates and costs. The group discussed having a booth at Town Day. A subcommittee will be formed to start planning.
6. Subcommittees formed: At each monthly meeting, subcommittees will report back to the larger group any available updates.
 - a. Town Day Subcommittee: Jac Dembro, Bill Gardiner, Anna Watson, Lisa Krinsky
 - b. Municipal Equality Index subcommittee: Christine Bongiorno, Mel Goldsipe, Bill Gardiner
 - c. Pride: Anna Watson, Jac Dembro, Mel Goldsipe

Liaisons from other agencies to the Rainbow Commission include: Dan Dunn will be the Board of Selectmen liaison, Captain Julie Flaherty will be the Police Department liaison and Rob Lorino will be the Library liaison.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm